



OPEN LETTER FROM PARISH COUNCIL

St. Edward's Parish Council Members

The Church of St. Edward and many other parishes in our archdiocese are facing challenging times.

Three years ago, our parish had similar financial problems as today. For two years in a row, though, two anonymous \$100,000 donors generously challenged St. Edward's parishioners to step forward and match their donations. Dubbed "Offertory Giving Challenges," or OGC, both campaigns were matched in full, resulting in an increase of St. Edward's income by over \$200,000 each of those two years!

St. Edward's Church is now ten months into the 2015-2016 fiscal year—this time without an Offertory Giving Challenge. Due to a projected budget deficit, our Finance Council wisely set some OGC money aside to cover this year's shortfall.

However, limiting the use of reserved funds and stopping any further deficit spending is essential for future budget planning. So St. Edward's staff and parish and finance council members attempted to prepare a balanced budget for the 2016-2017 fiscal year, covering July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017. The first draft of that budget, despite cost cutting, still fell short of being balanced.

Recently, our Parish Council members brainstormed ideas, with these goals in mind—to lead with optimism and transparency and to avoid cuts in programming. Suggestions for increasing our overall income include:

- Re-establishment of a stewardship committee
- Increased engagement with new and existing parishioners
- Deliberate estate and wills planning
- Implementation of fundraising policies and initiatives

Gratefully, a parishioner has taken the lead. Jerry Grebin, a long-time member of St. Edward's Church, is already consulting with a group interested in developing the time, talent and treasure of our community. That effort begins right now, with this newsletter—filled to the brim with stories about the great work being accomplished at St. Edward's Church.

As you read through this publication, consider how you might be able to use the envelope tucked inside. With your support, St. Edward's Church will continue leading with the hope that every able parishioner will contribute their gifts and a portion of their blessings to maintain a strong and welcoming parish. **We need to be all-in. After all, we can do this. We have done it before!**

Robert H. McBeath *Jen Zupke*

Robert H. McBeath
PC Co-Chair

Jen Zupke
PC Co-Chair

CHURCH OF ST. EDWARD

9401 Nesbitt Ave So.
Bloomington, MN 55437

952-835-7101

www.StEdwardsChurch.org

SPRING 2016 NEWSLETTER:

Open Letter from PC
The Heart of the Rosary
Stewards of God
Backpacking Spirituality
Archbishop Hebda
Faith Formation Community
(Re)Treat Yo Self
VEAP Garden
Parishioner Perspective
Engaging in Social Media
E-Giving
Tuning In
Building & Grounds Update
Memorial Garden
Stephen Ministers
50th Anniversary Planning

THE HEART OF THE ROSARY

Father Brian Fier, Pastor

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

During May we continue our tradition of offering the rosary before the 8:30am Sunday Mass at St. Edward's Church—come at 8:00 for a good seat!

Yes, May (along with October) is one of the months in which we honor our Blessed Mother Mary. We find our national celebration of Mother's Day taking place. There will be Marian processions flowing forth from our churches into the broader community. And there will be countless rosaries offered throughout the world. This is our time to once again celebrate Mary's role in our salvation history. So how did the rosary become associated with Mary?

Popular tradition holds that back in the thirteenth century St. Dominic received the rosary from Mary in a vision. While some may question whether he was single-handedly responsible for its development—for example, there is evidence of various aids for counting prayers from as early as the fourth century—the Dominicans did embrace this prayer tool as a way to teach the mysteries of Christianity to a largely illiterate world. A similar gift from the thirteenth century can be found in St. Francis giving us the Christmas crèche as a way to teach the simple peasants the great mystery of the Incarnation. Thus, the crèche and the rosary invite us to meditate and pray on the great teachings of our faith. The rosary as a prayer tool has continued to evolve down through the centuries to its present form.

Simply viewed, the rosary is a circle of 165 beads divided into 15 sets of 10 smaller beads, called decades. These decades are interspersed with 15 larger beads. What is commonly thought of as a rosary—five decades—is correctly called a chaplet. *Hail Mary* prayers are said on each of the smaller beads and an *Our Father* on each of the larger ones. In addition, most modern rosaries have a crucifix on which is said the *Apostles' Creed*, followed by an *Our Father* bead and three *Hail Mary* beads. The

actual decade begins with an *Our Father* and concludes with a doxology (i.e., the *Glory Be*).

The heart of the rosary lies in the 20 mysteries. These focus on events in the lives of Jesus and Mary, and include:

The Joyful Mysteries—the Annunciation, the Visitation, the Nativity, the Presentation, and the Lost Jesus Found in the Temple.

The Sorrowful Mysteries—the Agony in the Garden, the Scourging, the Crowning with Thorns, the Carrying of the Cross, and the Crucifixion.

The Glorious Mysteries—the Resurrection, the Ascension, the Descent of the Holy Spirit, the Assumption of the Virgin Mary, and the Coronation of the Virgin Mary as Queen of Heaven.

The Luminous Mysteries—the Baptism of the Lord, Jesus' First Miracle at the Wedding at Cana, the Proclamation of the Kingdom, the Transfiguration, and the Institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper.

While you don't have to pray the rosary to be a good Christian, know that it represents one of the most time-honored and respected means of Christian meditation. As Pope Pius XII said: "From the frequent meditation on the mysteries, the soul draws and imperceptibly absorbs the virtues they contain...and becomes strongly and easily impelled to follow the path which Christ Himself and His Mother have followed."

Still have questions or doubts? Then join your fellow parishioners before the 8:30am Sunday Mass throughout May. There will be information available, plus people who would be happy to share their experience and insight regarding this wonderful prayer tool.

Hail Mary!




STEWARDS OF GOD & ALL GOD’S GIFTS

St. Edward’s Stewardship Initiative

“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace”

(1 Peter 4:10)

We are all stewards. We acknowledge God as the Creator and Redeemer. The resources we have to work with come from God. The design for how things are to be and ought to be comes from God. We are the people of God and are accountable to God for our actions. We are given great freedom in managing and caring for earthly concerns. Freedom with accountability is an indication that God values and loves us. We are called to act in concert with God and others for bringing the kind of human community, especially the parish, God intends. We are managers and coworkers for the sake of God’s world and Church.



We are also heirs of God with Christ. A steward is more than a servant or slave, more than a manager. A steward is part of the household of God’s people, sharing bounty and blessings with other members of the human family. A steward shares the vision of the household. The best interests of the household are also the best interests of the steward. The well-being of the community is also the well-being of the steward. Stewards are accountable to each other. The needs change, the tasks of the members of the body change, but all believe and participate in the mission of the whole. Christ set the example of serving and sharing. The steward seeks to share that example, to live it, and to preserve it.

Living as faithful stewards, then, is no small task. Stewardship is caring and sharing completely. Stewardship is a total orientation of working for God and with God and with others for peace, wholeness, and the glory of God’s creation. Stewardship is the Christian’s way of life.

“Give your whole life and body to God.”

Romans 12:1, 1-2

We have been given much: life, bodies, and abilities. The natural resources to sustain life are available to us in trust for our use and the use of generations to come. The knowledge of what God has done and continues to do through Christ is a most precious gift. For the wise and faithful steward, material possessions and money help us to sustain our lives and become instruments of service to others to further the human community God intends. Therefore, we share what we have for God and others—and to sustain our parish, St. Edward’s Church, and to strengthen the community around us. Doing so fulfills our responsibilities as stewards and honors God—the source of all gifts.

“God wishes human beings to be His collaborators in the work of creation, redemption and sanctification; and such collaboration involves stewardship in its most profound sense.” Stewardship: A Disciple’s Response, A Pastoral Letter from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

BACKPACKING SPIRITUALITY: A REFLECTION

Patrick Smalley, Director of Youth Ministry and Young Adults

Spring is here and many of us are quick to embrace it. I'm not sure if you're like me, but even on those 50-degree days in early March I found myself getting out the patio furniture and enjoying being outside without a coat—even though snow was likely going to return. One thing I really appreciate about Minnesotans is that many of us value our seasons. We enjoy those first days of spring, but also the warmth of summer at the lake, the cool afternoons in fall when the leaves are turning—we don't even mind snow that much as long as it's after Halloween, before Christmas and it doesn't come more than two inches at a time. Like many who grow up here, I love nature. It has become one of the ways in which I connect most deeply with God—through being immersed in God's creation. One of the ways I practice this spiritual discipline is by going backpacking each year.

A few summers ago, I was lucky enough to go with five of my closest friends on a backpacking trip into Glacier National Park in Northwestern Montana. It was an unforgettable experience that allowed me to grow in my relationship with those friends and the loved ones I left behind. It also allowed me to grow in my relationship with God through experiencing His creation on a deeper level.

When preparing to go on a backpacking trip, you're only able to bring the things that you can fit on your back—or else your journey will be miserable. Thus, I made every effort I could to eliminate excess waste. We do this in our spiritual lives as well, just having gone through Lent, we eliminate (or fast from) those things that distract us from the love of God. Likewise, as we enter into spring, we clean out our houses to get rid of those things that we no longer need—hopefully donating them to someone who can really use them! Going “ultra-light” is a good practice for us to use in our faith, keeping in mind that it's the intangible things like love, laughter and joy that bring us true life.

While on the journey of backpacking, I connect deeply with God through the work I'm doing. Whether it's hiking on the trail, setting up camp, building a fire or preparing a meal, there is always something to do. However, all is essential. I suppose my connection to God through these necessary acts comes from my Benedictine background. St. Benedict would argue that our work is the way that we seek God by using our God-given gifts and abilities to further God's kingdom on Earth. Thy kingdom come... thy will be done... on Earth, as it is in Heaven. (Matthew 6:10) In the back-country, my work is done for the benefit of myself and those with whom I travel. But there is an additional responsibility that I must carry to work on behalf of the land that I am traveling, and to ensure that future pilgrims can explore that land and can appreciate the same beauty that I see. It's a humbling thing to recognize that the place I visited is only accessible on foot via a five mile hike through bear country.

One of the things I also love doing is connecting with God through fly-fishing. This all started after my

(continued on page 7)



Patrick on a backpacking trip to Glacier National Park in Montana.

ARCHBISHOP HEBDA: INSTALLATION MASS

Our new Archbishop has been named for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis! Archbishop Bernard Hebda's Installation Mass is scheduled for 2:00pm on Friday, May 13th, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, at the Cathedral of Saint Paul. All are welcome to attend.

FAITH FORMATION: A COMMUNITY EFFORT

Judy Foster, Director of Faith Formation: Birth-Gr. 5, Sacraments & Adult Faith Formation, Co-representative to Community Life Events

Many people might think that Fr. Brian, Patrick Smalley and I make all choices and decisions about offering formational and spiritual opportunities for our parishioners, from birth to end of life; or, as we say, "Womb to Tomb." Actually, we have a fabulous group of volunteers who are part of that process. We have three committees who meet throughout the year to help ministry staff plan and vision for the needs of our parishioners.

Each of these committees is then represented on the Faith Formation Commission. What is the purpose of that commission? It is where all formational and spiritual needs come together to create a 3-5 year plan and to send our Parish Council liaison to the council to integrate our ministries into the entire community. So far, we have completed an evaluation within each of the three areas over the past two years including having participants evaluate their experience. We looked for our areas where we might be "missing the boat" on providing for the needs of a particular age group. We determined that we are very strong in children and youth ministries and have had a long history of exemplary adult faith offerings. Sacramental formation is always exceptional.

So where are we lacking? When I meet with parents for baptism preparation I find many have not been active in their faith; but through baptism of their first child, they are open to "sticking their toes in the water of faith." We as a team have determined that this is the golden opportunity to bring them into the community and start to meet their needs. We also have a wonderful middle grades program that will be even better when we focus on helping our youth find a personal relationship with Christ, instead of seeing Wednesday evenings as "another class to take." Providing for the needs of young adults is also a challenge in all parishes around the world. How

can we minister in a way to offer faith formation to busy young adults at this time in their lives and to see faith as important for their future? In adult faith, are we really meeting the needs of the majority or just a few who have the thirst for enriching their faith journey? How can we nurture this thirst in others? That is the task of the commission; to find ways to fill those gaps.

Now that we have determined with leadership what those needs might be, we are in need of evaluating the needs of the entire parish, giving voice to those who may not be participating in pursuing their formation and faith. We are asked by the bishops to be "life-long learners." This does not mean just learning what the Church teaches, but providing opportunities to become closer to Christ in our everyday lives. In the next few months, our commission will be creating an evaluation and information-gathering tool to help us meet the needs of ALL parishioners.

We also will be looking for new people to join us on our committees and the commission to continue our work toward a master plan to make sure that all needs are met. We welcome new ideas! The commitment to a committee varies from meeting 2-3 times a year (grades 1-8 and youth ministry) to a monthly meeting for adult formation. There is not a lot of "homework," just a gathering to pool our efforts and to give a parent's or participant's point of view for what is offered so that staff leadership can use that information in planning for the future. So when Fr. Brian, Patrick Smalley or I plan for the year, we know that it is truly meeting the needs of our children and youth and that it works for parents and other adults in their busy lives.

Please seriously consider volunteering in one of these areas in leadership of the formation ministries. We as staff need your input and guidance.

(RE)TREAT YO SELF

Matt Kenutis, Youth Ministry Assistant



Growing up did you ever go on a road trip with your family? If you have I'm sure you can't forget the good, bad, and the ugly that came with being stuck in a car for hours on end. In 2013, a 67-year-old Belgian woman went to pick her friend up from the train station but instead went on the road trip of her lifetime. She plugged the address into her GPS (which was 38 miles away) and off she went—900 miles, 6 countries, and a few days later she realized that she had been driving in the wrong direction. At some point she made a wrong turn and then something malfunctioned with her GPS, but she didn't notice, and she just kept driving. She passed numerous signs that were in different languages, stopped to fill up the car with gas, and even took a nap on the side of the road! When asked about how she didn't realize she was going the wrong way she responded by saying, "...I was just preoccupied." When it comes to living our lives, I'm worried that too many of us are living like this woman. We can become so busy that we lose sight of where we are going.

Something that I have noticed since working with high school students is that they can get pulled in a lot of different directions. One minute they're at

school and their teachers are giving them assignments, the next minute they're at practice and their coach is giving them a workout to do, then they come to church to be a leader, and finally they go home where they need to do chores. Then they wake up and do it all over again. They continuously bounce around from one thing to the next and are being pulled at from every angle. In today's society there is a lot of pressure on them to be involved in different areas and constantly be using their time. As a Christian I don't disagree with society that we should use our time to be involved, but I would argue that we need to make time to just stop and rest. And that is exactly what we did last month.

In the beginning of February our Acts 29 Peer Ministry Team took a retreat to Red Wing with the theme of the weekend being, "Retreat Yo Self." The entire purpose of the retreat was to provide an opportunity to pause, reflect on life, and recharge. I believe that there are two main reasons why God calls us to rest. The first is that when we take time to rest it allows us to give our worries over to God. We can stop putting all of the pressure on ourselves and start trusting God with our lives. In Mathew 11:28-30 Jesus says, "Come to Me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest...I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." God wants to be involved in our lives and wants to help us out wherever we feel stress.

The second reason is that it gives us direction. Much like the woman from Belgium, when we get preoccupied it can cause us to lose focus and we don't realize where we are headed. It can be so easy to get caught up in what we are doing that we don't even remember why we are doing it in the first place. However, when we take a step back and think about what we are doing and what we value in life it will help us reorient our time and energy to what is truly important. Proverbs 3:6 says "In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight." God is our Father and He wants to help us out more than we could ever realize, but when we fail to stop and talk with Him we miss out on so much that He has for us.

BACKPACKING: REFLECTION

continued from page 4

grandfather, an avid fisherman, passed away when I was a first-year in college back in 2007. I was the only grandchild who fished, so I was going through his old fishing gear and I found a fly reel and a broken rod—a hobby that began and ended in a seemingly frustrating way. The discovery of the fly reel sparked an interest in me to continue on his interest in a different style of fishing—one that can connect the fisherman to the fish in a more intimate way. Using flies that I made myself, I was able to catch several fish on that backpacking trip in Montana. The stream wasn't stocked like many of the streams here in Minnesota—these fish were native to that land. Having the opportunity to hold the life of a native fish in my own hands, using materials that I put together myself, was a spiritual connection unlike any other.

In the midst of this spring, our high school students are preparing for their summer mission trip to Perryville, AK in response to Pope Francis' call to care for our common home. We continue to come back to his words encouraging us to see beyond what is in front of us or what may be comfortable, and to dig deeper into the root of each issue—his words will continue to nourish us for the journey ahead. I hope that our high school students may gain a greater appreciation for God and His creation through this summer's mission trip to Heifer Ranch. I ask that you please keep our students in your prayers.

Looking back on that trip to Montana, I am very thankful for having the opportunity to experience God in those places. It gave me perspectives that still impact my spiritual life today. Reflecting on those experiences makes me all the more excited for spring. As we begin to see the trees and flowers bud, seeing life resurrected from the death of winter, I pray that you and I both may experience the wonders of our relational God through His beautiful creation.

VEGGIES FOR VEAP

Contact: Sue Bartoletti (952-829-5574) and Ron & Bonnie Strand (952-944-1234 or bxstrand@gmail.com)

We call the St. Edward's community vegetable garden "Veggies for VEAP." This is a completely volunteer project.

Vegetables are grown on St. Edward's south lawn each summer for the food shelf at VEAP (Volunteers Enlisted to Assist People), which serves nearly 10,000 individuals on a monthly basis.

Donate to the Garden:

Bring tomato, cucumber and pepper plants to the foyer, May 21-29

Help Plant the Garden:

Early June

Tend & Harvest the Garden:

Wednesdays, 6:30pm



NEW PARISHIONER PERSPECTIVE

Featuring Doug & Judi Mehr, New(er) Parishioners

What can fresh eyes tell us? Hearing about the experiences of new parishioners is often eye-opening in a myriad of ways. Doug and Judi Mehr joined St. Edward's Church in November of 2014. Since that time, they have been serving as Eucharistic ministers, lectors and money counters. They bring Communion to the homebound and assist in the kitchen at funeral luncheons. They attend Donut Sundays and Young at Heart events. They are involved parishioners who graciously agreed to answer our questions about their backgrounds as well as their personal experiences at our parish.

Doug and Judi have been married for 29 years. Doug's first marriage was annulled. His four children, Judi's stepchildren, are now grown. Doug and Judi have seven grandchildren and one great grandchild. They are both cradle Catholics, with Doug having attended 12 years of Catholic education. At age 20 Doug stopped going to church but had a born again experience at age 42. Doug shared that, "Suddenly ALL the Catholic teachings and my education became meaningful and lead me to Christ and a Spiritual Homecoming to becoming a real Catholic."

Doug and Judi moved to the area from a small town and parish, where everyone knew everyone. Despite its beauty, St. Edward's Church felt enormous to them, with lots of people at Mass. From the beginning they had noted a high level of involvement by the laity at liturgies. So although they had "shopped" several churches in the area, ultimately St. Edward's parish felt right to them. They had felt warmly treated. A stranger had introduced herself to them at the outdoor Mass on St. Edward's Feast Day and they were impressed by the number of young people involved. All of those factors combined to influence their decision to become a member of this parish.

When asked why it was important to them to officially become a member, Judi shared, "For a sense of belonging, to meet people and to be of service. As you get older, it's harder to start all over again." Doug explained, "It gives one a sense of belonging to something bigger than oneself, a sense of Christian family."

"It gives one a sense of belonging to something bigger than oneself, a sense of Christian family."

Both report that getting involved at our parish was painless. In fact, Doug encourages others to, "just step up and volunteer, it's easy and gratifying!" Doug and Judi hope that others see the value of service and of being a supportive member of the parish. According to Doug, "being involved feels good so that it doesn't feel like all we do is receive."

We are grateful to Doug and Judi Mehr, and to all our parishioners, for choosing this parish as their place of worship. We hope parishioners, both old and new, never hesitate to reach out in positive ways by sharing THEIR best impressions of the Church of St. Edward!

ENGAGING IN SOCIAL MEDIA

Melissa Cavanaugh, Director of Communications



What does social media mean to you? Answers to that question vary greatly. Some see it as indispensable while others just aren't interested in using it. Many of us are somewhere between. While I still love reading a newspaper (the paper version) my husband relies on "Flipboard" and my

daughter (as appalling as this may sound to some) relies on her Twitter feed to keep up with current events.

Social media, like many promotional and informational vehicles, offers both opportunities and challenges. It provides visibility at very low cost. It grows

(continued on next page)

ENGAGING IN SOCIAL MEDIA

continued from page 8

community for those who engage. It is both accountable and transparent. Most importantly, it's a powerful means of evangelization—providing a Christian perspective to digital literacy. It is an essential tool for continuing to make Jesus Christ known and loved throughout our community and world. Bottom line, St. Edward's Church simply cannot ignore social media, any more than it could suddenly stop maintaining its web page. But we must engage in social media in a manner that is safe, responsible, civil and purposeful, all of which requires planning, input and monitoring.

As of mid-April, St. Edward's Facebook page is officially being "followed" by 81 fans. But that number is deceptive because there is much behind-the-scenes work in social media. Here are some tidbits about Facebook that may be surprising:

- * Facebook (and its top secret algorithms), in concert with followers, ultimately controls how influential each posting will be—that is, each post's "reach." When a posting is made, only 6-15% of St. Edward's followers will receive our post in their newsfeed. If a follower "Likes" or "Shares" that posting, then Facebook adds the post to 20% more of our followers, and so on; however, if a post is not "Liked" or "Shared," its "reach" stays very small. Even more importantly, those first "Likes" and "Shares" must happen within 2.5 hours of the posting!
- * The good news is that when a posting is particularly engaging, that number—St. Edward's 81 followers—increases exponentially. Every time a post is "Liked" or "Shared" the number of people who may see that post in their newsfeed (despite having no affiliation with St. Edward's Church) increases dramatically. We've experienced "reaches" that are as high as 557 newsfeeds for a single post. As an example, our engagement for the week of April 11-17 was 419 newsfeeds. Clearly, information shared on social media has exciting potential for "spreading the word" about our great parish!

But in order to increase our "reach," we need your help:

- * Follow us on Facebook. Click "Like" from the "Church of St. Edward" Facebook page. Before leaving our page, make our postings appear at the top of your newsfeed by clicking the triangle next to the "Liked" button and selecting "See First" under "In Your News Feed." That way, you won't miss any of our postings.
- * Once you are following us, consider engaging often, to include inviting your friends, or a select number of your friends, to like our page.
- * Send us photos or video from St. Edward's events or activities. Some of our best postings to date originated from photos taken by parents at faith formation events. (Keep in mind that we do not allow names to be associated with photos of children, sometimes resulting in cropped photos or blurred nametags. That policy also makes some videos impossible to post.)
- * Feel free to send content ideas, too. We may or may not be able to use them, but all will be considered and much appreciated.

In the end, social media, like all e-communications, is just one part of the overall communications planning at St. Edward's Church—albeit a very powerful tool for strengthening and even growing our community. Although not a substitute for face-to-face gatherings, it does support and build community.

Many parishioners have shared both positive and not-completely-positive feedback about the work being done with communications at St. Edward's Church in the seven months I've been on the job, and I am grateful for those comments. Please don't hesitate to share your opinions and ideas with me. I value them very much. Together, we can continue to reach out and engage our current parishioners, along with those searching for a parish!

E-GIVING: COMING SOON!

As St. Edward's Church prepares to implement the advantages of electronic giving soon, we will be adding an option that increases the likelihood of achieving our budgeting goals. And although e-giving won't replace the collection plate or disrupt how we currently accept donations, it will make it easier for some members to give, possibly even more regularly and generously.

TUNING IN

Craig Walker, Director of Music

So Easy to Sing at Mass!

Do you love to sing but feel you may be too busy to sing at Mass? You might be surprised how easy it is to get involved! There are many opportunities that don't require a lot of time, and there are opportunities to serve your church on a more regular basis, too. There are many choices. Become a part of our Festival Choir, to sing at just Easter and Christmas; or our Schola Choir, which rehearses and sings about once a month; or our Funeral Choir, which sings just occasionally. Our Contemporary Choir sings at Masses about once a quarter right now, while our main Adult Choir rehearses and sings weekly, September through May. To learn more please send an email to Craig at cwalker@stedwardschurch.org or talk to Craig Walker or Roger Burg (accompanist) after Mass. We would love to have you join us!

What are the Contemporary Masses About?

Last fall, we tried something new at the Feast of St. Edward. Our outdoor Mass featured songs by some of today's popular Catholic artists, as well as traditional music accompanied by popular rhythm instruments. The feedback was so strongly positive that we offered a similar (indoor) Mass for the Feast of Christ the King in November. Again, we were encouraged to consider offering



this music more regularly. So, during 2016, we are enjoying these Masses once a quarter—starting this past January and Mother's Day, and then coming up on the Feast of St. Edward in September and Christ the King in November.

But why do this at all? Besides the fact that so many parishioners seem drawn to this music, there are other reasons. St. Edward's Church does not currently have a Youth Choir, but through the work of our Praise Team and Contemporary Choir, we are able to provide an intergenerational approach to modern music, and include everyone from youth to seniors. The music offered at these Masses tends to draw families with younger children and youth who enjoy the modern vibe; although plenty of our seniors have been quite vocal about liking our contemporary music Masses, too.

What do we mean by modern or contemporary music? Parishioners who have been around for several decades are most familiar with traditional hymn style songs such as "Lord of All Hopefulness" or "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"—which are great hymns. In the 1970s and 1980s, Catholic music was heavily influenced by composers such as Marty Haugen, David Haas, and Michael Joncas and some people think that is contemporary. But today's modern Catholic music is influenced by musicians such as Matt Maher, Tom Booth, Steve Angrisano, Rory Cooney and many more. The recent Masses offered at St. Edward's Church have included music from all of those periods of time, including classic hymns accompanied by keyboard, guitar, bass, and drums all the way to modern worship songs that are sometimes only accompanied by guitar.

Rest assured that we won't lose sight of our Catholic traditions, our fine pipe organ, and/or our choirs. We will always have room for traditional music, standard choral literature, and more. We are just broadening our horizons by including our Adult Choir in our contemporary music, right alongside our Praise Team. Have you heard our choir sing some of our recent anthems accompanied by the band? Some selections have included "10,000 Reasons", "Love Is The More Excellent Way", "Mercy Tree", and "In Christ Alone".

We hope you were able to join us for our contemporary music Mass on Mother's Day (10:30am) and look forward to seeing you on the Feast of St. Edward in September!

BUILDING & GROUNDS UPDATE

Sherrie Schroeder, Parish Administrator and Brian Swain, Director of Facilities & Maintenance

Our hard-working Building and Grounds Committee has arranged installation of a new chiller in the next few weeks. Their original plan was to install a chiller for almost \$150,000, a capital improvement that was necessary and couldn't wait. But due to diligent research, this group found a thermal chiller that will be installed at \$70,000 less than originally projected! The rebates will be bigger, too. Because this chiller will be more energy-efficient than the one we have been using, we will save even more money. The two old chillers will be removed for proper disposal, some exhaust fans will be replaced, and there will be less daily maintenance because controls will be automatic rather than manual. What a win-win-win!

Memorial Garden

Have you ever thought about where you would like to be buried? Many have not given much thought to their final resting place. For those who haven't, consider St. Edward's Memorial Garden, located just outside the chapel.

Our Memorial Garden is a sacred place for the cremated remains of parishioners and their families who have found their spiritual home at St. Edward's parish. The garden provides comfort to families and friends who mourn and honor their loved ones. It provides a peaceful place to pray. Truly, this garden celebrates the fullness of a Christian Life—a beautiful meditation garden that is accessible any day and at any time.

Names are engraved on wall panels. Engraved pavers, remembering loved ones who may or may not be interred, are also in the garden.

Please consider our Memorial Garden when choosing your final resting place. Brochures with photos and more information are available in the foyer of the main church and chapel. Or contact Deacon Jim DeShane in the parish office.

The Building and Grounds Committee's great work was not all chiller-related. There has been an upgrade to our security system as well. With a goal to improve the security of the church, but avoid keeping more doors locked during the day, we recently installed a limited number of video cameras in the church facilities. This system is improving awareness of people entering and leaving, maintaining a visual record in case of a problem, providing deterrence to those who may intend to cause trouble and improving our security technology to be more aligned with other churches. It is allowing us to keep the church doors open, while also keeping the church, and everyone inside it, as safe as possible.

STEPHEN MINISTERS

Deacon Jim DeShane, Director of Pastoral Care

Stephen Ministers are laypeople—Christian men and women—trained to provide one-to-one care to people experiencing a difficult time in life, such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, relocation, or separation due to military deployment.

Currently at St. Edward's Church, there are 27 Stephen Ministers and Hospital Ministers. Since Stephen Ministry started at our parish, hundreds of parishioners have served. Nationally, since 1975, more than 600,000 people from more than 12,000 parishes, congregations and other organizations have been trained as Stephen Ministers.

Stephen Ministers come from all walks of life. Their commonality? A passion for bringing Christ's love and care to people during a time of need. If you hear a calling for this ministry, or just to learn more, please contact Dc. Jim DeShane at 952-835-7101.



9401 Nesbitt Avenue South
Bloomington, MN 55437

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Twin Cities, MN
Permit No. 459

Phone: 952-835-7101

Web: www.StEdwardsChurch.org

Fax: 952-835-0156

Email: receptionist@StEdwardsChurch.org

Staff Directory: StEdwardsChurch.org/about/staff/

Visit **www.StEdwardsChurch.org** to sign-up for weekly e-blasts, receive St. Edward's newsletters electronically twice a year, find staff and/or leadership contact information, volunteer, see St. Edward's most current news and events, and so much more!

Volume 15, Issue 2, May, 2016

Stewardship Art: LPI & Tracy Earl Welliver

50TH ANNIVERSARY PLANNING!

Planning has begun for St. Edward's 50th Anniversary. We are excited to celebrate such an incredible milestone! But we need your help as we continue to gather historical information about our parish. Anyone privy to the following is asked to please contact the parish office as soon as possible:

- * Names of founding and charter members
- * Location of church relics
- * Old photos or directories
- * Archived information like newspaper clippings

Watch for more information about our anniversary planning online, in the bulletin and in our next newsletter.

